## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MAYOR HORNIK ANNOUNCES GREEN ACRES GRANT

\$825,000 Matching Grant Largest in Marlboro History

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (July 15, 2015) – Mayor Jonathan Hornik announced to the Open Space Committee that Marlboro Township is the recipient a Green Acres matching grant for Open Space Acquisition in the amount of \$825,000 from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Garden State Preservation Trust through the Planning Incentive Grant program.

In a letter to Mayor Hornik, the New Jersey DEP stated, "Preserving open space and improving and expanding local parks are critical components of New Jersey's efforts to combat sprawl. This project represents a significant step toward achieving our goal of protecting New Jersey's most important recreation and conservation lands..."

"Not only is Marlboro Township only one of four towns in Monmouth County receiving an open space grant but \$825,000 is the largest amount given to any single municipality in the state. This grant will help Marlboro continue our mission to preserve open space, protect land from development forever and preserve Marlboro's quality of life," stated Mayor Jonathan Hornik. "The Open Space committee has been a partner with my administration in aggressively pursuing open space opportunities and I want to thank Chairman Captain Rajan and the committee for their dedication."

Since 2007, Marlboro has preserved more than 220 acres for residents to enjoy. Dedicated in 2013, the "Geohegan" parcel located on Tennent Road will be the future home of Marlboro's Community Garden. In 2010, Monmouth County Park System acquired and preserved several hundred acres in the vicinity of Harbor Road and the Marlboro Airport. In 2014, Marlboro Township protected 87 new acres of open space with the Smith, Penska and Baydock parcels, and preserved the 29 acre Baymar property on Harbor Road as a farm forever. In the center of Marlboro, the state is well underway in the cleanup of the Marlboro Hospital property consisting of 411 acres of land which will be turned over to Monmouth County for a dedicated park providing enjoyment for generations to come.

Councilwoman Randi Marder said, "As Council liaison to Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Shade Tree Committees since I was first elected in 2007, it gives me tremendous pride to see our hard work be rewarded with funding." She continued,

"Having grown up in Marlboro it is even more gratifying to be part of keeping Marlboro beautiful, green and preserving our quality of life."

Mayor Jonathan Hornik stated, "I look forward to joining the Shade Tree, Open Space and Agricultural Committees later this summer and fall as we begin planting the Community Garden and dedicating the Marlboro's newest Open Space properties."

The Open Space committee is chaired by Capt. Shital Rajan. Committee members include Jack Appel, Harry Cross, Linda Lee, Fran Owitz, Dennis Stack and Linda Sullivan. The Agricultural Advisory Committee is comprised of Chairwoman Heidi Rajan, Vice-Chairman Tom Chenal and member El Geran. Councilwoman Randi Marder is the liaison to the Open Space Committee.

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